



**MINUTES OF
ALAMEDA YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING FOR April 12, 2011**



DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2011
TIME: 5:04 p.m.
PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street,
Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jordan Flores (Late), Vice-Chair Samantha Chin,
Commissioners Carrie Huang, Amanda Khoo, Danielle McGuinness(Late),
Jeanette Mei, Mary Orbeta, Leigh Pond, and Bhaani Singh.

Staff: Patrick Russi, Recreation Supervisor (RS)
Andy Wong, Teen Coordinator (TC)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 8, 2011

Minutes of March 8, 2011, Youth Advisory Commission Meeting

M/S/C Mei / Orbeta (Approved)

“That the Minutes of March 8, 2011 Youth Advisory Commission meeting are approved.”

Approved (8): Chair Jordan Flores, Vice-Chair Samantha Chin,
Commissioner Huang, Khoo, McGuinness, Mei, Orbeta, and Pond

Abstention (1): Commissioner Bhaani Singh (absent)

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Alameda County Health Regarding Alameda Smoke Free Laws

By Janice Louie, Tobacco Control Program Alameda County Health Department and
Serena Chen, Policy Advocacy Director, American Lung Association (Discussion / Action Item)

Ms. Serena Chen, Policy Advocacy Director, American Lung Association, stated that she had presented to City Council an ordinance to restrict smoking around Alameda. Current State laws only require a smoking ban in a closed proximity, and outside of buildings within a 25 foot radius with many loop holes. According to the American Lung Association, Alameda is graded with an “F” for failing when compared to other cities within Alameda County. State law governs State buildings and facilities, which is more for work sites as an occupational hazard/issue. RS Russi asked if the laws can be extended to city Parks

and Facilities. Ms. Chen stated that as long as the City has an ordinance, then it can be extended to these sites and be enforced. Ms. Chen requested the help of the Youth Commission (YC) on providing ideas to help pass the ordinance.

Ms. Janice Louie, Tobacco Control Program Alameda County Health Department, then stated that tobacco companies are targeting the young adults/teens, to replenish their older smokers so tobacco retailers want to come into the city. She also stated that the new fad/trend is to have hookah lounges which attract younger smokers. Hookah is a term used for smoking from water pipes with flavored tobacco. Many younger adults think the hookahs are a safer alternative to cigarettes, but smoking from a hookah is much more powerful and concentrated the cigarettes. This is a deception to City Planners when these tobacco retailers apply for permits & licensing because the lounges use menus which are similar to a café menu, which goes without notice, and then ultimately gets approved. Union City youth has compiled a survey observing and monitoring where people smoke at the Mall which they will present to their Council to place no smoking signs.

Ms. Chen, also stated that by providing statistics to Council, this aids their decisions in passing ordinances which limit or ban smoking. Ms. Chen and Ms. Louie provided sample surveys from other cities and asked the YC to review and possibly come up with a survey that fits Alameda's needs. City of Oakland youth got involved with locating and documenting Oakland billboards which commercialized tobacco products. This led to an Oakland ordinance restricting advertising tobacco products on billboards within 1,000 feet of child sensitive areas, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, and churches. Ms. Chen stated that 1,458 billboards were reduced to 93 billboards. This is approximately a 93% reduction. Both Ms. Chen and Ms. Louie requested assistance from the YC once City Council decides on a direction for the smoking ban. TC Wong suggested having the YC review and brainstorm on this topic and determine what the YC would like to do.

Vice Chair Chin thanked Ms. Chen and Ms. Louie for their presentation. RS Russi asked the YC to brainstorm on what they would like to do, and narrow it down to simple documentation, observing, and/or surveying public areas. RS Russi said there was a lot of information presented, so it is important to review and move forward on what the YC response. TC Wong stated that the overall goal is to have a City Ordinance on banning smoking and to see if the YC supports the ban with local information (surveys, documents, observations, etc.) provided by the YC. Chair Flores stated that the YC needs to think about the discussion and be ready to speak on this issue at the next meeting.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Community Service Resource Guide for Students (Discussion / Action Item)

Vice-Chair Chin stated that the guide has been reviewed and completed. Chair Flores and Vice-Chair Chin are planning on attending the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families (ACCYF) to present the draft of the Guide for their members to review and comment. The Guide will then be forwarded to the School Board for approval.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

RS Russi thanked Commissioner Orbeta who attended the 100 Best Community Planning Forum.

Chair Flores stated that there is a beach clean-up at Crown Beach, April 30, from 11 AM – 5 PM. Community service hours are available. The beach clean-up is sponsored by Alameda Wildlife Foundation. Chair Flores invited the Commissioners to assist in promoting this event.

Commissioner Huang stated that she and Commissioner Mei judged the Alameda Youth Committee Talent show. There were over 100 audience members and the overall performance and show was very good.

Chair Flores distributed the "Keep It Clean" cell phone cleaner to the YC. He also stated the workshop on "Bullying Prevention in Alameda" which was held on Saturday, March 12, at Wood Middle School was very successful and well attended. The information presented includes: Recognizing the Signs of Bullying, Bullying and Self-Esteem, Cyber-bullying - Identifying and Prevention & Sexting and Texting.

Chair Flores reminded the YC to attend the "Teen Job Skills Workshop" on Thursday, April 28 at the Alameda Free Library. Chair Flores stated that this is his second year attending the event, which has very useful information on skills related to successful job searching which relates to completing a job application, appropriate dress, and preparing for an interview.

TC Wong reminded the YC to continue to recruit for new Youth Commissioners. There will be several vacancies at the beginning of next school year,

8. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011

9. Adjournment 6:37 PM